

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the Application:

Claims 1-8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (currently amended): A method for a server device to communicate with a client device in a home network, comprising the steps of:

(a) sending server device characteristic data that identify the server device from the server device to the client device in response to the client device transmitting a first request signal generated by said client device and sent to the server device;

(b) receiving a second request signal requesting a web page contained within said server device and associated with a server device control that distinguishes the server device from other server devices, wherein said second request signal is generated in response to said server device characteristic data; and

(c) sending said web page in response to said second request signal.

Claim 10 (previously presented): The method of claim 9, wherein:

step (a) further includes the steps of sending said server device characteristic data to the client device;

step (b) further includes the steps of the client device receiving said server device characteristic data and generating said second request signal in response to said device characteristic data; and

step (c) further includes the steps of sending the web page to the client device in response to said second request signal.

Claim 11 (previously presented): The method of claim 9, wherein the server device comprises a home device and includes at least one controllable function.

Claim 12 (previously presented): The method of claim 11, further comprising the steps of:
creating a menu for selecting said server device among a plurality of server devices to activate said controllable function; and
displaying said menu on a browser based device.

Claim 13 (previously presented): The method of claim 12, wherein said menu comprises a web page including at least one hypertext link to the web page contained within said server device.

Claim 14 (previously presented): The method of claim 13, wherein:
the step of creating the menu further includes the steps of: (i) creating a device link page from the home network, wherein the device link page includes at least one device control for each of the plurality of server devices, and (ii) associating a hypertext link with each device control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to at least one type of graphical and textual information contained in the server device and associated with the device control; and
the steps of displaying said menu includes the steps of displaying said device link page.

Claim 15 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein said device link page comprises a first web page or a first html page including at least one hypertext link to a second web page or a second html page contained within said server device.

Claim 16 (previously presented): The method of claim 14, wherein the step of creating the device link page includes the steps of:

- generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the plurality of server devices; and

- creating the device link page including said device controls associated with the plurality of server devices identified in the device link file.

Claim 17 (previously presented): The method of claim 16, wherein the step of generating the device link file includes the steps of:

- associating a logical device name with each of the plurality of server devices; and
- storing the plurality of logical device names in the device link file.

Claim 18 (previously presented): The method of claim 17, wherein the step of creating the device link page further includes the steps of:

- retrieving the plurality of logical device names from the device link file;
- storing the plurality of logical device names in the device link page; and
- converting the plurality of logical device names to the device controls.

Claim 19 (previously presented): The method of claim 18, wherein said device link page comprises a first web page or a first html page including at least one hypertext link to a second web page or a second html page contained within said server device.

Claim 20 (previously presented): The method of claim 11, further including the steps of detecting whether the server device is currently connected to the home network.

Claim 21 (previously presented): The method of claim 11, further including the steps of detecting an active status of the server device currently connected to the home network.

Claim 22 (currently amended): A home network system comprising:

- a server device coupled to a memory for storing web page files;
- a client device connected to the server device via a home network; and
- a control protocol for the server device to communicate with the client device by:
 - sending server device characteristic data that identify the server device from the server device to the client device in response to a first request signal generated by said client device and sent to the server device;
 - receiving a second request signal requesting a web page contained within said server device and associated with a server device control that distinguishes the server device from other server devices, wherein said second request signal is generated in response to said server device characteristic data; and
 - sending said web page in response to said second request signal.

Claim 23 (previously presented): The system of claim 22, wherein:

the server device sends said server device characteristic data to the client device;

the client device receives said server device characteristic data and generates said second request signal in response to said server device characteristic data; and

the server device sending the web page to the client device in response to said second request signal.

Claim 24 (previously presented): The system of claim 22, wherein the server device comprises a home device and includes at least one controllable function.

Claim 25 (previously presented): The system of claim 24, further comprising:

a menu generator for creating a menu for selecting said server device among a plurality of server devices to activate said controllable function; and

a browser displaying said menu on a browser based device.

Claim 26 (previously presented): The system of claim 25, wherein said menu comprises a first web page including at least one hypertext link to a second web page contained within said server device.

Claim 27 (previously presented): The system of claim 25, wherein:

the menu comprises a device link page such that the menu generator creates the device link page from the home network, the device link page including at least one device control for each of the plurality of server devices, and the menu generator associates a hypertext link with each device

control, wherein the hypertext link provides a link to at least one of graphical and textual information contained in the server device and associated with the device controls; and the browser displays said device link page on a browser based device.

Claim 28 (previously presented): The system of claim 27, wherein said device link page comprises a first web page or a first html page including at least one hypertext link to a second web page or a second html page contained within each of said plurality of server devices.

Claim 29 (previously presented): The system of claim 27, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by:

generating a device link file, wherein the device link file identifies the plurality of server devices; and

creating the device link page including said device controls associated with the plurality of server devices identified in the device link file.

Claim 30 (previously presented): The system of claim 29, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by further:

associating a logical device name with each of the plurality of server devices; and

storing the logical device names in the device link file.

Claim 31 (previously presented): The system of claim 29, wherein the menu generator creates the device link page by:

retrieving the plurality of logical device names from the device link file;

storing the plurality of logical device names in the device link page; and
converting the plurality of logical device names to a plurality of device controls.

Claim 32 (previously presented): The system of claim 31, wherein said device link page comprises a first web page or a first html page including at least one hypertext link to a second web page or a second html page contained within said server device.

Claim 33 (previously presented): The system of claim 22, further including a detector for detecting an active status of devices currently connected to the home network.

Claim 34 (previously presented): The system of claim 25, wherein the menu generator is a component of the client device.

Claim 35 (previously presented): The system of claim 25, wherein the browser is a component of the client device.

Claim 36 (previously presented): The system of claim 25, wherein the client device includes said browser based device.

Claim 37 (new): The method of claim 9, wherein upon said server device being powered on a unique IP address for said server device is generated.